

Washington, DC -- Today, U.S. Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) testified before the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) on the importance of enforcing and strengthening U.S. trade laws to alleviate the adverse impact of foreign trade practices on domestic industries and workers.

“All too often in Upstate New York, we’ve seen companies relocate and jobs move overseas,” said Arcuri, who testified before the U.S. International Trade Commission in Washington today.

“Our trade laws are the last line of defense for U.S. companies and workers competing against unfair foreign trade practices. Trade agreements should create new jobs for American workers and open overseas markets for our exports. Hearings like this help ensure the interests of American workers are protected in international trade deals. I believe our laws need to be updated and strengthened so there is fairness in international trade and domestic workers don’t lose out.”

On behalf of Nucor Steel, which employs 350 people in Auburn, Arcuri testified at an ITC hearing today regarding whether the U.S. should continue countervailing duty (CVD) and antidumping duty (AD) orders on imports of hot-rolled carbon steel flat products from Argentina, China, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands, Romania, South Africa, Taiwan, Thailand, and Ukraine.

“Since 2001, our country has lost over three million manufacturing jobs, and the trade deficit has grown to \$759 billion,” said Arcuri during his testimony. “In New York alone, we have lost nearly 200,000 manufacturing jobs. I refuse to accept that the loss of manufacturing jobs is ‘inevitable’ as some have suggested. That is defeatist. A significant cause of this job hemorrhaging is due to currency manipulation, foreign government subsidies, theft of intellectual property, and dumping of goods in our market at below-cost. It is time we addressed these concerns with urgency.”

U.S. safeguard laws authorize the President to provide import relief from injurious surges of imports resulting from fairly competitive trade from all countries. Other safeguard laws authorize relief for import surges from communist countries and from China. In each case, the ITC conducts an investigation, forwards recommendations to the President, and the President may act on the recommendation, modify it, or do nothing.

The three most frequently-applied U.S. trade remedy laws are antidumping, countervailing duty, and safeguards. Enforcement of these laws is primarily carried out through the administrative investigations and actions of two U.S. government agencies: the International Trade Administration (ITA) of the Department of Commerce, and the International Trade Commission (ITC).

U.S. Representative Michael A. Arcuri (NY-24)

Statement before the U.S. International Trade Commission

**Re: Hot-Rolled Carbon Steel Products from Argentina, China, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Netherlands, Romania, South Africa, Taiwan, Thailand, and Ukraine
Investigation Nos. 701-TA-404-408 and 731-TA-898-908**

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Chairman Pearson and members of the Commission, thank you for the opportunity to appear today in support of the U.S. hot-rolled steel industry. My name is Michael Arcuri, and I am a first-term Congressman from the 24th District of New York.

First, I would like to thank you for your recent decision to maintain the trade remedy on dumped and subsidized imports of steel rebar. We make a lot of rebar in my Upstate New York district, and your decision will have a direct, beneficial impact on my constituents.

We do not produce hot-rolled steel in my district, but it is the backbone of the U.S. steel industry and critical to American manufacturing. Hot-rolled steel is sold to a wide range of consuming industries, including automotive, construction, appliance, transportation, machinery and equipment. A healthy hot-rolled steel industry is essential to our economic and national security. This vital industry will be threatened with injury if the trade remedy against unfairly traded imports is eliminated.

I believe our nation's trade laws are the last line of defense for U.S. companies and workers competing against unfair foreign trade practices. These laws are based on principles that the international community has long agreed on. If we do not enforce them vigorously, we will be sending the world a signal that the rules do not matter, and that they can violate them at will, without repercussions. In the long run, I can think of few things that would undermine support for international trade more.

I believe vigorous enforcement of trade laws and agreements is critical to building public support for expanded international trade. Trade agreements should live up to their billing in creating new jobs for American workers and opening overseas markets for our exports. Yet, that doesn't seem to be the case.

Since 2001, our country has lost over three million manufacturing jobs, and the trade deficit has grown to \$759 billion. In New York alone, we have lost nearly 200,000 manufacturing jobs. I refuse to accept that the loss of manufacturing jobs is "inevitable" as some have suggested. That is defeatist. A significant cause of this job hemorrhaging is due to currency manipulation, foreign government subsidies, theft of intellectual property, and dumping of goods in our market at below-cost. It is time we addressed these concerns with urgency.

Congress and the Commission each have a role to play to ensure that the trade laws work for working men and women. Congress is currently reviewing our trade laws to assess whether they are effective in addressing unfair trade practices, or whether new tools are needed.

Personally, in light of increasing unfair trade from China and other foreign competitors – and the dangers that poses to industries in my district, I believe our laws need to be updated and strengthened. The Commission has the important role in seeing that our trade laws are enforced. As a Member of Congress, I will do my part, and I have confidence that together, we can restore faith in the world trade system, defend the integrity of U.S. trade laws and agreements, and deliver the fairness in international trade that our citizens have a right to expect.

I appreciate your consideration of my views, and for allowing me the opportunity to testify today.

Thank you.

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